

IN THE CLAIMS:

*Please AMEND the claims to read as set forth in the following listing of the claims:*

CLAIMS

1. (original) A lyophilized composition comprising a physiologically active substance and a stabilizer, characterized in that the stabilizer is a recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide comprising at least one stretch of 10 or more consecutive repeats of Gly-Xaa-Yaa triplets and in which at least 20% of the amino acids are present in the form of consecutive Gly-Xaa-Yaa triplets and wherein said recombinant polypeptide has a calculated glass transition temperature of higher than 180 degrees Celsius.
2. (original) A composition as in claim 1 wherein said recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide has a molecular weight between 3,000 Dalton and 80,000 Dalton preferably between 5,000 Dalton and 60,000 Dalton and more preferably between 10,000 and 40,000 Dalton.
3. (original) A composition as in claim 1 wherein said recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide has a molecular weight between 3,000 Dalton and 15,000 Dalton preferably between 5,000 Dalton and 10,000 Dalton and more preferably between 6,000 and 8,000 Dalton.
4. (currently amended) A composition as in claim 1 ~~the preceding claims~~ wherein the glass transition temperature of the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide is higher than 190 degrees Celsius preferably higher than 200 degrees Celsius.

5. (currently amended) A composition as in claim 1 ~~the preceding claims~~ wherein the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide has a bimodal molecular weight distribution.
6. (currently amended) A composition as in claim 1 ~~the preceding claims~~ wherein the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide is free from helical structure.
7. (currently amended) A composition as in claim 1 ~~the preceding claims~~ wherein the number of hydroxyproline residues in the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide is less than 5% of the total number of amino acid residues preferably less than 2%.
8. (original) A recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide comprising at least one stretch of 10 or more consecutive repeats of Gly-Xaa-Yaa triplets and in which at least 20% of the amino acids are present in the form of consecutive Gly-Xaa-Yaa triplets and wherein said recombinant gelatin-like polypeptide has a calculated glass transition temperature of higher than 180 degrees Celsius.
9. (original) Process for lyophilizing compositions comprising a physiological active substance and a stabilizer characterized in that the stabilizer is a recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide comprising at least one stretch of 10 or more consecutive repeats of Gly-Xaa-Yaa triplets and in which at least 20% of the amino acids are present in the form of consecutive Gly-Xaa-Yaa triplets and less than 5% of the total number of amino acid residues are hydroxyproline residues and wherein said recombinant gelatin-like polypeptide has a calculated glass transition temperature of higher than 180 degrees Celsius.

10. (new) A composition as in claim 2 wherein the glass transition temperature of the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide is higher than 190 degrees Celsius preferably higher than 200 degrees Celsius.
11. (new) A composition as in claim 3 wherein the glass transition temperature of the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide is higher than 190 degrees Celsius preferably higher than 200 degrees Celsius.
12. (new) A composition as in claim 2 wherein the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide has a bimodal molecular weight distribution.
13. (new) A composition as in claim 3 wherein the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide has a bimodal molecular weight distribution.
14. (new) A composition as in claim 4 wherein the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide has a bimodal molecular weight distribution.
15. (new) A composition as in claim 2 wherein the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide is free from helical structure.
16. (new) A composition as in claim 3 wherein the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide is free from helical structure.
17. (new) A composition as in claim 4 wherein the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide is free from helical structure.
18. (new) A composition as in claim 5 wherein the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide is free from helical structure.

19. (new) A composition as in claim 2 wherein the number of hydroxyproline residues in the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide is less than 5% of the total number of amino acid residues preferably less than 2%.
20. (new) A composition as in claim 3 wherein the number of hydroxyproline residues in the recombinant or synthetic gelatin-like polypeptide is less than 5% of the total number of amino acid residues preferably less than 2%.